



Blessing of the Pets

October 27, 2019
28 Tishrei 5780



CONGREGATION
BETH SHALOM

Leader: Dear God, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life and join in celebration with You of all creation.

Congregation: We ask for Your blessing, your shalom, on the creatures present here that we love and on all creatures celebrating in the wild. Shalom, Shalom, Shalom, May Your blessings come.

Leader: We gather this afternoon, as we begin to read about Noah and the flood and the saving of the animals on the ark. We recognize the bond between human and animal is not a mere coincidence, but a deep connection that stretches back to creation.

Congregation: As the prophet Hosea declares: "I will make a covenant for them with the animals of the field, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; I also will banish the bow and sword, and war from the land" (Hosea 2:20).

Leader: A selection from Psalm 148
Halleluyah!
Praise God from the heavens.
Praise God, angels on high.

Congregation: Praise God, sun and moon, all
shining stars.
Praise God, highest heavens.
Let them all praise God's glory at whose
command they were created, at whose decree
they endure forever, and by whose laws nature
abides.

Leader: Praise God, all who share the earth,
all sea monsters and ocean depths....
All mountains and hills, all fruit trees and
cedars, all beasts, wild and tame, creeping
creatures, winged birds.

Congregation: Let all praise the glory of God,
for God alone is sublime, more magnificent than
the earth and the heavens. God has exalted
His people's fame for the glory of all the faithful.

Leader: All dogs and cats, large and small.

Congregation: Praise God.

Leader: All rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs.

Congregation: Praise God.

Leader: All goldfish, guppies, and swimming creatures.

Congregation: Praise God.

Leader: All robins, wrens, and singing birds.

Congregation: Praise God.

Leader: All horses, cows, and sheep.

Congregation: Praise God.

Leader: All lizards, snakes, and creeping things.

Congregation: Praise God.

Leader: Every animal in the sky, the sea, and the forest.

Congregation: For all of these, we thank you God.

Leader: *Kadosh, Kadosh, Kadosh.* Holy, Holy, Holy, the whole world is full of God's glory.

All together we read:

Blessed are You, Holy Source,
Maker of all living creatures.

On the fifth and sixth days of creation,
You called forth fish in the sea,
birds in the air and animals on the land.

We ask You to bless these animals
By the power of Your love,
enable them to live fully in harmony with us.

May we always praise You
for all Your beauty in creation.

Amen.

Leader: God said, "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant that is upon all the earth, and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit; they shall be yours for food. And to all the animals on land, to all the birds of the sky, and to everything that creeps on earth, in which there is the breath of life, I give all the green plants for food." And it was so. And God saw all that He had made, and found it very good. (Genesis 1:29-31)

Congregation: Selection of Psalm 104

The trees of the Lord drink their fill, the cedars of Lebanon, His own planting, where birds make their nests; the stork has her home in the junipers. The high mountains are for wild goats; the crags are a refuge for rock-badgers. He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows when to set. You bring on darkness and it is night, when all the beast of the forests stir. The lions roar for prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they come home and couch in their dens. Man then goes out to his work, to his labor until the evening.

Leader: How many are the things You have made, O Lord; You have made them all with wisdom; the earth is full of Your creations. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its creatures beyond number, living things, small and great.

Animals (and owners) are welcome to stay around as long as they like.

Ceremony compiled by Rabbi Aaron Melman